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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 33 | Min 19 | Humidity 32% Partly sunny Sensex 80,238 | Nifty 24,865 | Gold 1,66,150 | Silver 2,69,100 | Dollar 91.64 | Euro 107.02 | GBP 122.52

PAY IT FORWARD

Steady stream of penalties collected from litterbugs and bulk waste violators enables BSWML to strengthen its tractor fleet to clear roadside blackspots

PAGE 3

MATTER OF CONCERN

Personal issues, workplace concerns, relationships emerge top topics that people seek counselling for as number of young persons seeking support rises in city

PAGE 5

They create fake profiles with aligning zodiac signs, language and interests after choosing persons looking for life partners, they lovebomb victim and finally swindle them of money — sharp rise in cybercrimes linked to matrimonial services in 2025

LOVE WILL FLEECE US ALIVE

In Jan 2026, 14 cases registered already in city

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It is a frustrating irony, but a platform meant for building lifelong trust is becoming a playground for scammers. Cybercrime linked to matrimonial services continues to endanger genuine users, with 2025 recording a sharp rise of 115 cases and 14 cases were reported in January. Cyber experts say that despite strict regulations, gaps remain in enforcement, allowing such scams to persist.

According to Karnataka state police data, 135 cases of matrimony fraud were registered in 2022. The number dropped to 61 cases in 2023 and remained the same in 2024. However, 2025 witnessed a spike, with 115 cases reported. So far in 2026, 14 cases have already been registered.

Who is the target?

According to Chetan Anand, National Cyber Security Scholar

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

“These cyber fraudsters, who often operate as organised gangs, follow detailed handbooks often called ‘pig butchering’ manuals, that provide step-by-step instructions on how to manipulate victims emotionally and financially, ensuring they do not make mistakes

— Chetan Anand, cybercrime intervention officer

3 years & counting

Work at Srigandadakaval Lake has been going on and on, but remains unfinished as citizens just want greenery around lake to be preserved

KAUSHIK JN

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Three years after development work began at the Srigandadakaval Lake near Sunkadakatte, it looks like the authorities are in no mood to complete the work. Residents and lake activists continue to complain about the delay in completion of the work, but the authorities continue to be apathetic. Lake activists allege that the authorities are focused on removing the very characteristics of the lake.

Hundreds of residents from Chennappa Layout, Bhairaveshwara Nagar, Chandana Layout, Hanumanthanrayanapalya, and Sunkdada Katte visit Srigandadakaval Lake for their daily walks. Some of them, especially the members of Srigandhada Walkers Association, have planted hundreds of saplings but the authorities have failed to assign a contractor to water the saplings and remove weeds along the bund of the lake, thus forcing the volunteers to themselves water hundreds of saplings during summer.

The residents complain that the developmental works have been progressing at a snail’s pace over the last three years. “We want the authorities to ensure rainwater flows into the lake through the adjacent stormwater drains. Though we are not against developing walking paths and other amenities, the need of the hour is to ensure greenery around the lake and water in the lake,” said HD Shivalinge Gowda,

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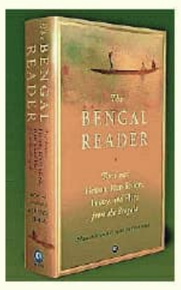
THINGS TO DO

01 Lit up



Arunava Sinha will be in conversation with writer and editor Shinie Antony for a wide-ranging discussion on the making of The Bengal Reader, the evolution of Bengali literature, and the politics and possibilities of translation.
Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar;
When: March 6, 5 pm

02 Music with a cause

Matra Productions is presenting UMMEED – Chapter 3, an inclusive music festival performed by children with special needs. The programme aims to enhance emotional expression, build confidence, and encourage social participation through performance-based interventions.
Where: Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Race Course Road;
When: March 7, 5 pm

03 Spectacle in motion

The 12th Attakkalari India Biennial presents the second contemporary dance production by Italian choreographer Raphael Bianco, in collaboration with the Istituto Italiano di Cultura di Mumbai and Consulate General of Italy in Bengaluru.
Where: Alliance Francaise De Bangalore, Vasanth Nagar;
When: March 3, 7 pm

04 In full swing

Ekatvam, an initiative of the Entrust Foundation, is bringing the Holi Music Fest 2026, a grand three-day celebration of musical togetherness, artistic excellence, and cultural heritage.
Where: The Bangalore Gayana Samaja, Basavanagudi;
When: March 6, 7 & 8, 5 pm

05 Legacy of lyrics

Atta Galatta is hosting 'Journey of a Song-150 years of Vande Mataram', taking the audience on a journey through stories, anecdotes, facts, myths and misgivings surrounding 'Vande Mataram'.
Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar;
When: March 7, 7 pm

Add some drama to learning, say experts

Child rights commission member urges inclusion of theatre as part of school curriculum in letter to Education Department, says move could positively impact student health and learning

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Child rights activist says theatre may help unlock children's innate creativity and significantly boost their self-confidence (File photo)

Alarmed by rapid increase in stress levels, loneliness, mobile phone addiction, and behavioural problems among children, the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR) has advised the state government to appoint drama teachers to inculcate theatre education for schoolchildren.

Dr Thippeswamy KT, a member of KSCPCR, in a letter to the Principal Secretary of the Department of School Education and Literacy, stated that the introduction of theatre-based learning has helped schoolchildren to a great extent in the UK, Canada, and Finland. "Bullying, dropouts, and behavioural problems among school children has come down due to the introduction of theatre-based learning in schools in the UK, Canada, and Finland. The Happiness Curriculum by Delhi Government and educational programmes introduced by Kerala and Tamil Nadu governments got good results," the letter read.

Dr Thippeswamy said that Karnataka Public Schools and PM SHRI Schools are model schools that give emphasis to quality education. "Appointing drama/theatre teachers at the KP Schools and PM SHRI Schools will improve the health of students and reduce mobile phone addiction and help students to improve learning skills. I appeal to the authorities to create posts for drama/theatre teachers at schools and provide training facilities and guidelines for recruitment of teachers," the letter stated.

Incorporating performing arts into teaching brings dynamic dimension to learning, making it more engaging, experiential and holistic, while helping children express emotions and improve communication skills, says child rights activist

Stating that theatre (or drama) in education plays a powerful role in unlocking children's innate creativity and significantly boosting their self-confidence, Nagasimha G Rao, a child rights activist, said the recent recommendation from the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights KSCPCR to integrate theatre elements into school curricula and employ drama teachers in schools is highly important and timely for children's education. He said that incorporating drama and performing arts into teaching brings a fresh, dynamic dimension to learning, making it more engaging, experiential, and holistic. "This aligns closely with Article 29 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which emphasises that education must aim to develop the child's personality, talents, and mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential," Rao said.

He said that introduction of theatre-based learning would foster respect for human rights, cultural identity, diverse values, and the environment, while preparing children for a responsible life in a free society.

He said by embracing theatre as a core educational tool, schools can help children express emotions, build empathy, improve communication skills, and develop critical thinking in a joyful way. "Such an approach not only nurtures well-rounded individuals but also supports inclusive and child-centered education as envisioned by global child rights standards. Implementing this recommendation effectively could transform classrooms into vibrant spaces where every child thrives creatively and confidently," he added.

Passengers now allowed to transfer rail tickets to family

As per Indian Railway authorities, passengers can now request for a transfer of reservation to their family members or permitted individuals under specific conditions and prior approval from authorised railway officials. Officials state that the facility can be availed in select cases, hence a written request is to be submitted to the concerned officials before the prescribed departure.

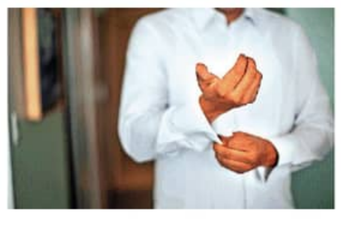
Since name changing is not an automatic process and is subject to verification, citizens are expected to approach the nearest railway reservation office with a copy of their electronic reservation slip along with a valid photo ID at least 24 hours before the running train's departure.

In case of a ticket transfer within family members, a written request will come in aid which has to be submitted before departure of the train. Government officials using the railway service on official duty can also seek a name change by submitting the request to the concerned authorities.

Similarly, groups associated with the National Cadet Corps (NCC), marriage parties, and students from recognised institutions can avail this special service. They may request a transfer from one member to another, or from one student to another, provided the request is made at least 24 hours before the train departure. **–BMB**

Jeans, tees banned in RTO offices under new dress code

In a move to tighten discipline and restore decorum in Regional Transport Offices (RTO) across Karnataka, Transport and Road Safety Commissioner AM Yogeesh has issued a strict dress code for officers and staff. Employees have been directed not to wear jeans, T-shirts or any casual attire during duty hours and instead report to work in formal clothing befitting government service. Motor Vehicle Inspectors must wear their prescribed uniforms without exception, while Group D staff, attenders and Home Guards have also been told to strictly adhere to their designated uniforms. Those without a notified uniform must still ensure they are dressed in dignified, formal attire. Wearing official identity cards during office hours has been made compulsory. The order warns that if the instructions are violated, office heads will be held directly responsible and face disciplinary action.



The directive follows recent controversy during a Lokayukta raid at the Kasturinagar RTO office in Bengaluru, where a staff member was found wearing jeans and a T-shirt. Deputy Lokayukta Justice B Veerappa reportedly pulled up the employee, questioning the appropriateness of such attire in a government office. The video of the incident went viral, prompting the department to act. **–BMB**

Litterbugs are contributing to fine way of tackling waste

BSWML gets one tractor for eacy constituency from penalty it has collected from littering and bulk waste violations to ramp up plastic recovery, clearing blackspots

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Bengaluru generates around 6,000 metric tonnes of solid waste every day. Of this, nearly 520 metric tonnes is low-value plastic classified as Refuse Derived Fuel

The next time you toss a garbage bag by the roadside, remember this. Your fine may well fund the tractor that comes to clear it.

Thanks to a steady stream of penalties collected from litterbugs and bulk waste violators, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) has purchased one tractor for each Assembly constituency in the city, tightening its grip on roadside dumping even as it ramps up plastic waste recovery.

BSWML CEO Kari Gowda said nearly ₹60 lakh is being collected every month from Bengalureans for dumping garbage on roadsides and failing to segregate waste. "That penalty money is now rolling back into the system in the form of tractors. We have purchased one tractor for each Assembly constituency using fine collections and deployed them to clear bulk waste and notorious black spots across the city," he said.

In the last three months alone, these tractors have lifted over 6,000 metric tonnes of bulk waste, signalling a visible escalation in the civic body's crackdown on indiscriminate dumping.

Bengaluru generates around 6,000 metric tonnes of solid waste every day. Of this, nearly 520 metric tonnes is low-value plastic classified as Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF). The agency now aims to push RDF recovery to 1,000 metric tonnes daily. Before October 2025, recovery of such low-value plastic was barely 10 per cent.

"Following sustained awareness drives and stricter enforcement, the collection rate has multiplied sharply, with 19,470 metric tonnes of RDF gathered between October 9, 2025 and February 26, 2026. Of this, 18,625 metric tonnes has been transported to Dalmia Cement units for co-processing since mid-December," Gowda said.

Officials say the shift is already visible. As more plastic is segregated at source, the volume of waste heading to landfills has begun to shrink.

I With ₹60 lakh collected monthly in fines, BSWML reinvests penalties into cleanup infrastructure, boosting RDF recovery, reducing landfill burden, generating revenue

Under Extended Producer Responsibility norms, cement companies issue EPR credits to BSWML for processing plastic waste. Between December 2025 and January 2026, around 3,600 credits were traded with producers, importers and brand owners under the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2024, generating potential revenue between ₹54 lakh and ₹1.8 crore.

The agency has also identified over 100 acres each in Doddaballapura taluk and south Bengaluru for integrated solid waste management facilities, reinforcing its push towards a more sustainable and financially resilient waste management system.

Police quarters turn hostile for strays

A city-based animal welfare organisation has written to the Bengaluru Police Commissioner seeking strict and uniform enforcement of animal protection laws across police residential quarters in the city, alleging repeated misuse of authority in animal-related cases.

Sahavarthin Animal Welfare Trust, in its letter, has highlighted incidents of alleged animal cruelty and harassment of feeders inside police quarters, particularly at Adugodi. According to the trust, nearly 200 dogs reside within the Adugodi police quarters and are cared for by a citizen feeder who has repeatedly raised concerns about cruelty by police personnel and their family members.

The issue escalated on February 24 when the feeder approached the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) after she was allegedly prevented from feeding the dogs. Activists claim that when GBA staff attempted to intervene, they were verbally abused and chased away from the premises by officials stationed there.

Animal welfare workers point out that under the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023, street dogs fall under the jurisdiction of the local urban body, and feeding community dogs is legal. In cases of conflict, the civic body is mandated to designate feeding spots. Activists also referred to a recent Supreme Court order stating that feeding must continue at designated locations. They allege that in Adugodi, access was denied to the feeder and relocation of the dogs was suggested — a move they argue would disrupt territorial stability and pose risks to the public. Though feeding spots were marked, the NGO claims the process lacked scientific planning. The trust has cited similar complaints from Ashok Nagar police quarters and alleged harassment near Cubbon Park Police Station, including delayed police response and obstruction of sterilisation efforts.

The organisation has urged the Commissioner to register an FIR over the Adugodi incident. —BMB

Actress among three held for murder

A 45-year-old man found dead inside a locked rented house in Manjunath Nagar has led to the arrest of three persons, including small-time Kannada actress Bindu, by Bagalagunte police. The deceased, Mohan Rao, who ran a small finance business, was in a live-in relationship with Bindu after separating from his wife. The couple had rented the house two months ago without a formal agreement.

The body was discovered on February 28 after landlord Nataraj alerted police about a foul smell. Investigation revealed Bindu had developed a relationship with Vinay, a truck driver, who allegedly wanted to marry her. Mohan reportedly objected. On February 18, after a drinking session involving Mohan, Bindu, Vinay and Dhanush, a quarrel broke out. Police said Vinay stabbed Mohan and the trio later smothered him. They locked the house and fled. Further investigation is ongoing. —BMB

Unidentified body found on railway tracks

An unidentified man, believed to be aged between 35 and 40, was found dead in a mutilated condition on the railway tracks near Soladevanahalli railway station early Monday morning. According to the Yeshwanthpur Railway Police, the incident is suspected to have occurred late Sunday night when the man was allegedly run over by a passing train. The impact was severe, leaving his hands and legs severed and body parts scattered along the tracks. His face was disfigured beyond recognition, complicating identification efforts.

Railway staff and local residents first spotted the body and alerted the police. Officers reached the scene, conducted a preliminary inspection, and secured the area. An Unnatural Death Report (UDR) has been registered. The body has been shifted to a government hospital for post-mortem. Police are working to identify the deceased and determine whether the death was accidental or suicide. —BMB

Lokayukta probes hospital irregularities

An anonymous complaint alleging large-scale irregularities and mismanagement at Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology has triggered a suo motu probe by the Karnataka Lokayukta. Acting on the complaint, Lokayukta Justice B S Patil registered a case, issued notices to officials and formed a team of judicial and police officers to inspect departments and seize documents if required.

During the February 25, 2026 hearing, hospital Director Dr Naveen, Financial Advisor Mr Harish and Administrative Officer Mr Venkateshappa appeared before the Lokayukta. The inquiry flagged shortages of critical medicines such as Protein and Trastuzumab. Directions were issued to the Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust and the Health Department to ensure drug supply. The next hearing is on April 24, 2026. —BMB

Hoax bomb threat jolts passport office

A hoax bomb threat sent via email to the Regional Passport Office in Koramangala on Monday morning around 10 am triggered swift police action and heightened security measures. Upon receiving information about a suspected explosive on the premises, police personnel immediately rushed to the office and secured the area. A bomb disposal squad and dog squad were deployed to conduct a thorough inspection of the building and its surroundings. Employees and visitors were briefly alarmed as security checks intensified. However, after an extensive search, authorities confirmed that no explosive or suspicious object was found, declaring the threat to be false. Sources said the email was allegedly typed in Tamil. Police stated that a petition has been submitted regarding the incident. —BMB

Bengaluru–Hyderabad bullet train corridor gains fast-track momentum

Centre pushes 626 km high speed rail project, promising sub-two-hour connectivity and accelerating land acquisition coordination with Karnataka government

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Detailed Project Report submission expected to Railway Board by March 2026

With surveys underway and DPR submission expected by March 2026, the proposed 350 kmph corridor aims to reshape regional mobility, linking key growth centres across Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh

The proposed Bengaluru–Hyderabad High Speed Rail corridor has gathered momentum with a Central Railway team visiting the state to discuss alignment details and land acquisition requirements with the Infrastructure Development Department. The move comes within weeks of the project being announced in the Union Budget on February 1, signalling a clear push from the Centre to fast track the ambitious corridor.

The high-speed line is expected to significantly transform travel between the two technology-driven cities. Once operational, the journey between Bengaluru and Hyderabad is estimated to take between 1 hour 55 minutes and two hours. At present, express trains take anywhere from 8.5 hours to as much as 19 hours, depending on the service, while Vande Bharat trains cover the distance in roughly 8 hours 15 minutes. Although flights take about 1 hour 15 minutes in the air, the overall travel time increases considerably after factoring in airport procedures and travel to and from city centres. The proposed rail corridor is expected to offer close to two-hour city-to-city connectivity.

Sources said the corridor is planned over a stretch of around 626 km and is expected to largely run on elevated tracks along a fresh alignment, independent of existing railway lines. Trains on the route are proposed to have a design speed of 350 kmph and an operational speed of about 320 kmph.

Officials said final location surveys are currently being conducted by RITES Limited, and the Detailed Project Report (DPR) is likely to be submitted to the Railway Board by March 2026. The preliminary DPR and alignment groundwork have helped the project move swiftly following the Budget announcement.

The Centre has asked the state government to appoint a nodal officer to coordinate land acquisition and related clearances. The corridor may have three stations within Karnataka, including Alipura in Gauribidanur taluk, Devanahalli near the international airport, and Kodihalli in Bengaluru Rural district. Kodihalli is expected to emerge as a key interchange, particularly if the proposed Bengaluru–Chennai high-speed line materialises through the same location.

Across the entire corridor, nearly 12 stations are expected, with major stops likely at Mahbubnagar, Kurnool, Anantapur and Hindupur, improving connectivity across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh before the line enters Karnataka.

Infrastructure Development Minister M.B. Patil said the state would extend full cooperation, noting that the project would serve as a major growth connector between the two southern hubs and strengthen regional economic integration.

Quick response by Hoysala saves the day

A police officer's quick response helped unite a lost boy with his family. The 11-year-old child was found wandering alone near Jyoti Puram Temple in Ramamurthy Nagar Police Station limits when the police officer in Hoysala noticed him and immediately connected with Namma112 for backend support.

They took the boy to the police station, made sure he was stable and began tracing his address with the information they could collect from the boy, and after verifying his address and Aadhaar details, the cops reunited him with his family. The operation conducted within 18 minutes was a part of the Safe City initiative aimed at child safety through prompt action along with coordination.

In another incident, a 10-year-old girl was found crying alone near Nagamma Temple in Bettadasanapura on Sunday. An auto driver dialled 112, and Hoysala 192 arrived at the location within nine minutes. During the inquiry, the girl mentioned that she studied in a school in Begur and did not know her home address.

The police took the girl to her school, where they spoke to her teachers and school authorities to get details on her parents. With that information, the police were able to trace her parents and safely handed over the child to them.

In anothe incident, a person called the police to report that an individual was stuck in the lift in Siddanna Layout. Hoysala 148 rushed to the scene within six minutes and helped rescue the person, who was trapped in the lift for some time. **–BMB**

Hospital senior executive booked on rape charges

A senior executive of a private hospital in South Bengaluru has been booked on charges of rape and criminal intimidation after a former employee accused him of sexually assaulting her under the pretext of official meetings.

According to the complaint filed at Siddapura police station, the accused, identified as Trivikram Rao, Executive Director of a private Hospital near Ashoka Pillar in Jayanagar, allegedly assaulted the woman who had joined the organisation three months ago.

In her complaint, the survivor stated that Rao would frequently ask her to accompany him to client and investor meetings. She alleged that under the guise of professional discussions, he repeatedly subjected her to sexual harassment. On one such occasion, he allegedly invited her to a meeting at a star hotel and raped her in a room at the Oberoi on MG Road.

The woman also alleged that the accused warned her that she would be fired if she revealed the incident to anyone. Unable to cope with the alleged harassment and threats, she eventually resigned from her position and later approached the police. Police officials stated that the complainant is married and has a child. They added that the complaint was lodged three days ago, while the alleged incident is said to have taken place about a month to a month-and-a-half earlier.

Based on her complaint, Siddapura police have registered a FIR against Trivikram Rao. Currently the accused is absconding, police said. **–BMB**

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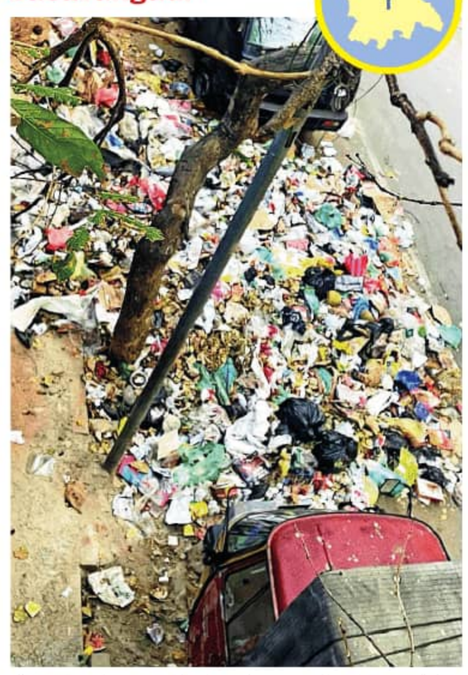
Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Waste neglect
Wilson Garden

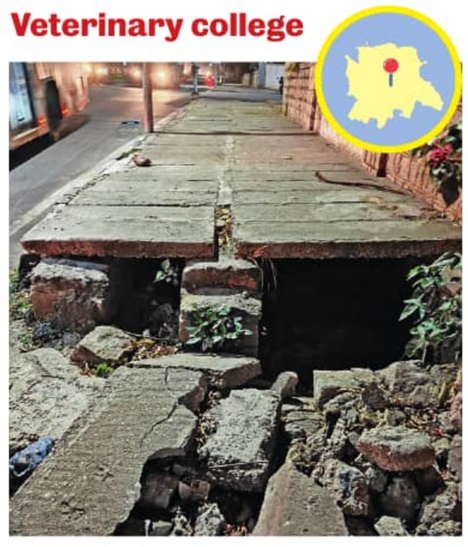
Garbage, including wet and dry waste, has remained uncleared for over two months near Methodist Church, 8th Cross, Wilson Garden, despite repeated complaints to civic authorities.

Roadside filth
Basavangudi



Waste is scattered across Brughal Mutt Road in Basavanagudi, creating unhygienic conditions for residents and commuters.

Pavement hazard
Veterinary college



Completely broken pavement slabs in front of the Veterinary College pose serious danger to pedestrians and daily commuters.

Judicial inquiry into police shooting

The High Court has directed a judicial magistrate to conduct an independent inquiry into the police shooting of a migrant labourer in Hubballi in April 2025.

The order was passed while hearing a petition seeking a transparent probe into the death. The man, a migrant worker from Bihar, had been accused of raping and murdering a minor girl. Police claimed he was shot while attempting to escape custody after attacking personnel. The encounter sparked public debate, with civil liberties groups questioning whether the use of lethal force was justified.

The State government informed the court that the investigation had already been transferred to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and that due process was being followed. However, the court considered whether additional safeguards were required to ensure transparency and public confidence.

The petition, filed by a civil liberties organisation, raised doubts about the official account and sought judicial oversight. It argued that encounter deaths require strict scrutiny, especially where procedural lapses are alleged.

In earlier hearings, the court sought updates on compliance with mandatory guidelines governing encounter cases, including registration of FIRs, preservation of evidence and independent investigation. It also examined the sequence of events leading to the firing, including how the accused was being transported and the nature of the alleged threat.

HIGH COURT

The court ordered a magistrate-led inquiry to independently review evidence and procedures.

The CID probe will continue under High Court supervision, with further reports awaited. **BMB**

Life convict allowed wedding visit

The Karnataka High Court has granted three days' emergency parole to a life convict with severe visual impairment to attend his sister's wedding in Mandya district.

The plea was filed by the convict's mother, who stated that her son suffers from 77% permanent visual disability, certified by a government hospital, and holds a Unique Disability Identity Card. She also informed the court that the sister, whose wedding was scheduled between February 25 and March 1, 2026, has a locomotor disability.

The mother submitted that her son's presence was both emotionally significant and necessary to assist with family and customary responsibilities during the marriage rituals.

Justice BM Shyam Prasad noted that the Chief Superintendent of the Central Prison in Mysuru had sought a police verification report, which confirmed that the wedding would take place on February 26, 2026 in Pandavapura.

Counsel for the petitioner informed the court that an appeal against the conviction was pending, though no bail application had been filed. While observing that the appropriate course would ordinarily be to seek relief in the pending appeal, the court made an exception, noting the undisputed nature of the wedding and the family's inability to contact legal aid counsel in time.

The court said it was persuaded to grant emergency parole for a limited period and on conditions.

Prison authorities were directed to release Sri Chetan S on three days' parole, subject to his return to prison on March 3, 2026.

He must execute surety and report daily to the jurisdictional police. With these directions, the petition was allowed. **BMB**

Emails by day, anxiety by night

Workforce wellbeing efforts intensify following significant increase in high-severity counselling cases

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As workplace conversations around mental health grow stronger, new data from 1to1 help indicates a steady rise in counselling uptake in 2025, alongside a concerning increase in high-risk cases and younger individuals seeking support.

In 2025, 1to1 help conducted over one lakh counselling sessions, with more than 35,000 individuals availing themselves of support. Counselling utilisation increased from 3.7% in 2024 to 4.6% in 2025, reflecting a significant rise in engagement.

The top counselling concerns in 2025 were personal issues (46%), followed by workplace concerns (15%), marital relationships (12%), social relationships (11%) and premarital relationships (6%). Individuals reported feeling stressed (13%), anxious (10%), confused (6%), hurt (4%) and insecure (3%). Many also shared that their concerns led to overthinking or rumination (24%), negative thoughts (7%), feelings of a lack of support (5%) and rigid self-expectations (4%).

Speaking about the rise in utilisation, Piyali Maity, Clinical Director at 1to1 help, explained the structural changes behind the numbers. "In 2025, 1to1 help conducted around three times as many events as in 2024, with 33% more participants. These events were primarily held on employees' organisational premises, enabling stronger face-to-face connections with participants. This helped us counter webinar fatigue.

It also demonstrates the commitment organisations are making to building awareness. However, we noticed that most participation came from virtual events, especially topic-based webinars conducted by our counsellors. Additionally, our app and web portal were revamped, making it easier for employees to book sessions at short notice according to their availability."

Campus-to-career transition struggles, emotional dysregulation, and infidelity-linked distress intensify intervention requirements across organisations

While increased awareness and access played a role, the data also revealed worrying trends. Around 26% of individuals who attended counselling showed signs of self-harm or suicidal thoughts. Of these, 5% required urgent intervention, as they had active suicidal thoughts with intent and means.

Another 18% reported active thoughts of self-harm or suicide but did not express intent to act and were closely monitored. Only 3% expressed passive thoughts.

Marital distress emerged as a particularly high-risk category. "About 6% of individuals who discussed marital concerns showed a high risk of suicide. Among those discussing infidelity in marriage, 17% showed signs of self-harm or suicidal thoughts, reporting high levels of stress, anxiety, frustration and feelings of betrayal," she said.

Another significant shift was seen among younger employees. The under-25 age group increased from 3% in 2024 to 14% in 2025.

Maity noted, "This shift from 3% to 14% is notable and likely reflects both rising pressures and a growing willingness to seek support among this cohort. We observed that under-25-year-olds showed more challenges related to academic concerns, burnout and difficulty concentrating.

Additionally, they primarily sought support for emotional regulation, mental health concerns (27% of personal concerns) and self-improvement. While academic concerns and burnout can be linked to campus-to-corporate transition anxiety, and concentration difficulties and emotional dysregulation are consistent with social media pressure literature, our data does not directly capture these drivers. What we do see is that Gen Z are more open to counselling, which could be one of the indicators for this increase."

Although workplace issues accounted for 10–15% of overall concerns, personal challenges were found to spill into professional life. Around 11% of those who sought help for personal issues reported that it affected their work, making work the third most impacted area after family and self.

Nearly 97% of employees who sought counselling showed measurable improvement, with reduced depression and anxiety.

As companies expand structured mental health programmes, goal-based counselling is proving both accessible and effective.

AI camera does its job, but privacy concerns remain

A tech-savvy homeowner from Bengaluru has sacked his domestic help after an AI-powered kitchen surveillance system allegedly caught her stealing fruit from his refrigerator. The tool has sparked a debate over privacy versus accountability in private homes.

The homeowner, who built the DIY 'AI Roommate', installed a camera that can monitor real-time kitchen activities during meal preparation. The system is designed to send instant alerts for suspicious actions, such as unauthorised access to the fridge, alongside generating weekly reports.

According to the homeowner, the AI-powered tool helped him track two incidents in which the house help was allegedly caught stealing fruit without permission, which led to her dismissal. The tool also generated reports on the health and safety measures followed by the house help during meal preparation.

The builder of the tool plans to expand the system to include gas leak detection and an idle-time tracker, which could be adapted to run fully offline on a Raspberry Pi device. The creation has raised legal concerns, as experts caution that constant surveillance of live-in staff may violate labour laws and privacy rights.

A Bengaluru-based attorney specialising in labour law stated that clear consent is mandatory, as such measures can blur employer–employee boundaries. The introduction of the tool underscores AI's gradual entry into homes, raising questions about balancing security with ethical considerations as such technology is increasingly adopted by urban professionals in India's growing tech capital, Bengaluru. **BMB**

Cop caught in fake Insta profile case

In a shocking incident, a serious complaint has been lodged against a Sub-Inspector, identified as Hanumesh from Mahadevapura Police Station, for allegedly harassing women using a fake Instagram account. An inquiry has been initiated by the Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), Whitefield.

According to the complaint, senior officials stated that the officer allegedly created a fake Instagram profile under the name "Praburajbabu" and used the account to send disturbing and inappropriate messages to multiple women, some of whom resided in the police quarters.

The matter came to light when the wife of a police constable approached senior officials seeking justice, stating that she had been subjected to repeated sexual harassment through messages sent from the fake Instagram account.

Officials are currently collecting digital evidence, including account activity, message records and other data, to verify the claims linked to the fake profile. The ACP of Whitefield will conduct the inquiry, and further action will be decided upon following verification of the allegations. **BMB**

Bengaluru's biomedical waste crisis raises alarm

With 31 tonnes generated daily, compliance lapses, training gaps and weak segregation systems strain the city's healthcare waste management network

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Bengaluru's rising biomedical waste burden has once again come into focus, with authorities and private hospitals acknowledging that segregation and compliance gaps continue to pose challenges across the city's healthcare sector.

Dr Shobha Prakash, President of PHANA, said the city generates nearly 31 tonnes of biomedical waste daily, underlining both the scale of healthcare services and the responsibility that comes with it. "With hundreds of private hospitals, nursing homes, clinics and laboratories operating across the city, strict adherence to the Biomedical Waste Management Rules, 2016 is essential to protect public health and the environment," she said.

Segregation at source remains one of the biggest hurdles. "Biomedical waste must be separated at the point of generation into colour-coded categories — yellow, red, white (translucent) and blue. Even minor lapses at the ward or laboratory level can contaminate the entire waste stream," Dr Prakash said. Training gaps, particularly among housekeeping and outsourced staff, further contribute to errors.

Healthcare experts warn that improper segregation increases treatment costs and poses serious risks to sanitation workers. When biomedical waste is mixed with general waste, it becomes difficult to trace and treat safely, heightening the chances of contamination and environmental damage.

Used syringes, vials and tubing highlight challenges in proper segregation and barcoding mandated under biomedical waste compliance systems

Authorities and private hospitals admit persistent shortcomings in biomedical waste segregation, documentation and monitoring. Experts warn improper handling threatens sanitation workers, increases treatment costs and undermines environmental and public health safeguards

Compliance challenges are more pronounced in smaller healthcare establishments. Dr Prakash noted that small clinics and non-bedded facilities often struggle with documentation, barcoding and the timely submission of annual returns. "While large hospitals typically have dedicated compliance teams, smaller establishments may lack structured systems. Monitoring whether waste is barcoded, transported in authorised vehicles and treated at Common Biomedical Waste Treatment Facilities remains a critical link in the compliance chain," she said.

In response, the Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes Association (PHANA) recently organised an educational seminar on biomedical waste management at the Karnataka Medical Council Auditorium. The event brought together hospital administrators, regulators and waste management service providers to improve coordination and strengthen compliance.

Sri Chandra Babu, Regional Director of the Central Pollution Control Board, addressed the gathering and explained the latest compliance requirements, barcoding mechanisms and the role of healthcare institutions in ensuring safe disposal. Officials from the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board also clarified regulatory procedures and responded to queries from hospital representatives.

PHANA said its efforts extend beyond awareness programmes. The association is working on standardised operating procedures for member hospitals, regular staff training, internal compliance audits and stricter enforcement of barcoding and manifest tracking systems. It is also exploring cluster-based solutions to support small clinics through authorised collection services.

Illegal dumping of biomedical waste along roadsides has been reported in the past, raising serious public health concerns. Experts emphasise that biomedical waste management is not merely a regulatory obligation but a shared responsibility. Scientific segregation, safe transport and proper treatment, they say, are essential to safeguarding community health and maintaining the credibility of Bengaluru's healthcare system.

Guarantee schemes fuel liquor price surge

In a bid to mobilise funds for its five guarantee schemes, the state government is planning to raise the Excise Department's revenue collection target by 10 per cent for the next financial year, setting the stage for a likely liquor price hike after the Budget session. With nearly Rs 59,000 crore being spent annually on free guarantee schemes, the financial burden has pushed the government to lean heavily on revenue-generating departments such as excise, revenue and transport.

Excise remains a key contributor to the state's coffers, and annual revisions in liquor prices have become a steady tool to shore up resources. For 2025-26, the department was initially given a target of Rs 40,000 crore, which was later revised upwards by Rs 3,000 crore. An official said that so far, about 77.61 per cent of the target, roughly Rs 33,371 crore, has been achieved.

By January-end of 2024-25, collections stood at Rs 29,460 crore, while the current year has already seen an additional Rs 3,910 crore in revenue, largely due to higher additional excise duty on IMFL and beer, even as overall liquor sales have dipped.

Despite the drop in volumes, the department has proposed a further 10 per cent hike in the 2026-27 target, which could mean an increase of around Rs 4,300 crore. Industry representatives say this may translate into another round of price revision, particularly on lower-priced liquor, which accounts for nearly 75 per cent of excise revenue.

Brands are categorised into 16 price slabs in the state, with the cheapest segments contributing the lion's share, followed by semi-premium at around 20 per cent and premium imports at about 5 per cent. Sources indicate that prices in the lower slabs could go up by around 12 per cent. Since the Congress government took office, additional excise duty has been increased six times, and the basic excise structure has also been revised, moving from a flat rate to an alcohol content-based slab system. With fears of protests if a hike is announced in the Budget, the government is expected to signal only a higher revenue target now and implement the price increase later in the year. **–BMB**

BM Trippin' Tales — Consumer Connect Initiative

Karnataka unlocks 200 prehistoric sites through QR codes

State archaeology department bridges research and public access with bilingual digital content, photographs, and scannable guides to ancient heritage

Sridhar.Vivan
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From river valleys and rocky hillocks to ancient burial grounds and cave art, Karnataka's prehistoric past is set to become far more accessible. Information on over 200 prehistoric and megalithic sites across the State will soon be available through QR codes, allowing people to explore history while sitting at home or planning a visit with ease.

The Karnataka State Archaeology, Museums and Heritage Department has launched a special initiative to introduce Stone Age sites and early human settlements to the public. The project brings together detailed information in Kannada and English, supported by photographs and QR codes for each site. The content will be released in digital format and as a coffee table book.

An official said the sites documented span the length and breadth of Karnataka. These include the Malaprabha and Ghataprabha river valleys of north Karnataka, known for early human habitation; the rock circle burials of Hutridurga; cave paintings at Pavagada; flower-shaped stone tombs at Bagepalli; and stone sepulchres at Hakkinallu village in Ramanagara district.

Visitors can scan the QR codes printed in the book or displayed at the locations to access information instantly. The codes will also help travellers locate heritage sites and understand their historical significance before visiting. Officials said the idea is to bridge the gap between academic research and public awareness.

Hikers navigate rugged paths and dense greenery, mirroring renewed public engagement with Neolithic sites, rock art locations, and ancient stone burial structures across Karnataka

Developed at an estimated cost of 40 lakh, the project documents sites from the Paleolithic, Neolithic and Megalithic periods. It covers early human settlements, caves, rock art, stone engravings, burial structures and tools used by prehistoric communities. More than 200 locations have been documented with images and simplified descriptions.

According to department officials, while researchers and universities have published studies on prehistoric Karnataka, this is the first time such a comprehensive compilation of the State's prehistoric sites is being presented in a single publication. The book is expected to serve as a resource for students, researchers, travellers and history enthusiasts.

Among the prominent sites featured are the Malaprabha and Ghataprabha river basins, where early human tools such as hand axes have been discovered. Megalithic burial structures found in Kodagu and the Morayur hills indicate ancient settlement patterns and burial practices. In the Lingasugur region of Raichur district, stone tools resembling axes have also been unearthed.

Sanganakallu in Ballari district stands out as a major Neolithic site, with evidence of early dwellings, stone tools, rock paintings, pottery, stone beads, grinding stones and signs of ragi cultivation. Hirebenakal in Gangavathi taluk of Koppal district, known for its ancient stone burials and also called Morer Betta, is listed among Karnataka's seven wonders.

The project is in its final stages, and the coffee table book titled Anadi Manavara Seetiginta Karnataka is expected to be released shortly. Officials said the initiative would help people better understand early human life in Karnataka and foster interest in preserving the State's archaeological heritage.

Kannadigas unite to aid stranded tourists in UAE

Emirates airplanes are parked at the Dubai International Airport after its closure in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on Sunday

Community leaders, ministers, embassies coordinate assistance, medical support, emergency relief for stranded Karnataka tourists in UAE

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Non-resident Kannadigas in the United Arab Emirates have united to support tourists from Karnataka who remain stranded in Dubai, launching coordinated relief efforts and seeking urgent intervention from the state government. Under the leadership of Ronald Colaco, the Kannadigas Help Line team convened a virtual meeting to assess the situation, compile details of those affected, and streamline support on the ground. Community leaders stressed that the UAE remains safe and authorities are protecting expatriates, while urging people to avoid spreading unverified information on social media.

MLC SL Bhojegowda, who is stranded in Dubai, said he pushed for a Rs 2 crore emergency relief package and received assurance that authorities will place the matter before the Chief Minister. MLC and Deputy Chairperson of NRI Forum of Karnataka Aarti Krishna said she is in touch with embassies across Gulf nations and coordinating efforts with the Karnataka government. Community organisations in Dubai, Sharjah, Abu Dhabi, and Ajman are reaching out directly to stranded Kannadigas. Coordinator Hidayat Adoor said volunteers are meeting affected tourists and providing assistance, including medical help where needed.

Meanwhile, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said 109 people contacted the state helpline and shared their details, prompting intensified response efforts through the Disaster Management wing and senior officials since Saturday night. Of them, 100 remain stranded in the UAE, mainly in Dubai, while nine are stuck in Bahrain. District-wise data showed Ballari accounts for 32 stranded persons, followed by Bengaluru with 25. Others include Davanagere (9), Chikkamagaluru (5), Madikeri and Vijayapura (4 each), Shivamogga, Raichur and Mangaluru (3 each), Udupi, Chitradurga, Kalaburagi and Chikkaballapura (2 each), Tumakuru (1), while three have not confirmed district details.

> **“Arrangements, including special or regular flights, will be made once restrictions are lifted**
>
> –Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda

Gowda clarified that the Centre informed the state that flights cannot operate due to suspended air traffic but assured arrangements will be made once restrictions lift.

K’taka moves to bring tourists back home

Escalating Israel-Iran conflict disrupts airspace, leaving 50 Davangere tourists stranded in Dubai awaiting urgent evacuation support

Indian embassy coordination sought after sudden airspace disruptions cancelled flights regionally

Around 50 tourists from Davangere district remain stranded in Dubai after their return flight was abruptly cancelled. Around 15 persons from Jagaluru taluk and 35 from neighbouring Chitradurga and Ballari districts had left Bengaluru on February 23 for a tour in the UAE. Their return was scheduled for February 28 at 9.30 pm, but it was cancelled due to the Israel-Iran conflict affecting regional airspace.

Dr Prabha Mallikarjun, MP from Davangere, has appealed to the Union Ministry of External Affairs to urgently evacuate the tourists and coordinate with the Indian Embassy in Dubai. In an X post she stated, “Our Kannadigas are in dire need and would require an immediate MEA intervention for a safe return.”

According to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, about 100 Kannadigas are stuck in Dubai (UAE) and around nine in Bahrain, as per the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC). All District Emergency Operation Centres have been activated 24/7 to address the evolving war situation. He also mentioned that the Chief Secretary has written to the Union government seeking repatriation assistance and airline coordination for rescheduling flights.

In his letter addressed to Modi, the CM expressed concern over the impact of recent airspace restrictions and NOTAMs issued by multiple West Asian countries, which have disrupted international flight operations. He noted that these developments have left a large number of Kannadigas and other Indians stranded, particularly at major transit hubs such as the UAE (Dubai).

> **“We shall leave no stone unturned for the safe return of Kannadiga people, and the Government stands with the citizens firmly**
>
> –Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister of Karnataka

In his post on X, the Chief Minister urged citizens to register with the Indian Embassies immediately and shared helpline numbers to expedite assistance. The UAE toll-free number is 800-46342 and WhatsApp +971 5430 90571; for Bahrain, +973-39418071. Karnataka residents can contact the SEOC at 080-22340676 or 1070.

The CM added, “We shall leave no stone unturned for the safe return of Kannadiga people, and the Government stands with the citizens firmly.” **— BMB**

No petrol, diesel price hike despite global oil prices spiking to USD 80

International oil prices rose about 9 per cent following US and Israeli attacks on Iran and retaliatory strikes by Tehran, but retail petrol and diesel prices in India are unlikely to be increased in the near term, sources said.

Brent crude, the global benchmark, climbed close to USD 80 per barrel, while US-traded crude rose 8.6 per cent to USD 72.79, up from around USD 67 on Friday.

For India, which imports 88 per cent of its requirement of crude oil, which is turned into fuels like petrol and diesel at refineries, higher global prices translate into a larger import bill and potential inflationary pressures.

However, retail fuel prices are not expected to be raised immediately, as the government continues to follow a calibrated policy of allowing companies to build margins when international prices are low and cushioning consumers when rates rise, sources said.

Retail petrol and diesel prices have been on a freeze since April 2022, with fuel retailers like Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) absorbing losses when crude prices are high and making profits when rates are low.

This meant that when globally fuel prices went up in response to elevated crude prices, prices were stable in India. And when softening of crude prices pushed down fuel rates globally, rates in India remained unchanged.

The government wants to continue to shield consumers and the same policy will continue unless there is a huge spike in crude prices, they said.

With assembly elections in critical states like West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, and Assam round the corner, it doesnt want anything that could give the opposition a handle.

As military conflict in the Middle East escalated, Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Monday reviewed the situation on crude oil, LPG and other petroleum products with senior officials from his ministry and public sector companies.

India imports 88 per cent of its crude oil needs and roughly half of its natural gas requirement. These mostly come via the Strait of Hormuz, which the Iranian authorities have threatened to shut down following attacks by the US and Israel.

“We are continuously monitoring the evolving situation and all steps will be taken in order to ensure availability and affordability of major petroleum products in the country,” the ministry said in a post on X.

Following the US and Israeli attacks on Iranian government, military and nuclear facilities, Iran warned shipping away from the strait and insurers withdrew coverage, effectively halting tanker movements.

“They (oil companies) have enough cushion to sustain this kind of prices spike,” a source with direct knowledge of the matter said. **— PTI**

'No question of closing silk factory in T Narasipura'

Karnataka Minister HC Mahadevappa on Monday asserted that there is no question of closing the silk factory in T Narsipura in this district and accused the BJP of "creating unnecessary confusion" over the issue. Responding to criticism by Leader of the Opposition in the assembly R Ashoka, Mahadevappa said the government had earlier decided to allocate one-and-a-half acres of land, which was being used for the silk market, for the development of a park, but the order has now been reviewed.

"A stadium will not be constructed on that land. For us, the silk factory is the priority. The government has no prestige issue in this matter," he said, adding that workers and the public need not panic.

He said the government has given utmost priority to the growth of the silk factory and it is its responsibility to ensure that no harm comes to the unit. "There should be no doubt about this. The BJP has created confusion for political reasons," he alleged.

Mahadevappa said he has held a meeting with sports and silk department officials and, if found absolutely necessary, the proposal to construct a stadium on the land will be dropped. **PTI**

Scammers exploit gaps in ID checks, vulnerability of users

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and Cybercrime Intervention Officer, matrimonial scams are carefully planned and do not happen overnight. Scammers first create fake profiles on matrimonial and social media sites, pretending to be genuine people looking for a relationship. They slowly build trust and emotional closeness with the victim. Often, they "love bomb" the person with constant messages, affection, gifts and attention to make them feel special.

"They do not send random messages; it involves a series of carefully planned steps. These cyber fraudsters, who often operate as organised gangs, follow detailed handbooks often called 'pig butchering' manuals, that provide step-by-step instructions on how to manipulate victims emotionally and financially, ensuring they do not make mistakes or jeopardise the scam," he said.

Their modus operandi is so meticulous that they create believable profiles with matching zodiac signs, hometowns, language, and interests to suit the target. After building trust through scripted conversations, they shift chats to WhatsApp. Within seven days, they introduce fake emergencies or investment schemes. Finally, they ask for money, claiming medical needs, travel expenses, customs charges, or attractive cryptocurrency investments.

In January 2026, a case came to light in which a 29-year-old software engineer from Whitefield was allegedly cheated of around ₹1.53 crore in an elaborate fraud. The accused, identified as Vijesh B, reportedly posed as a wealthy businessman claiming assets worth ₹715 crore. To gain the victim's confidence, he introduced his wife, Soumya, as his sister and even involved his father in the scheme. The victim was convinced to take loans and transfer money on the pretext of business investments and resolving temporary "bank-related issues".

"Victims are often professionals such as doctors and engineers, as well as individuals seeking remarriage who may be eager to settle down quickly. The fraudsters, however, can be anyone, women posing as men, men posing as women, or individuals assuming entirely false identities to deceive their targets," said the expert.

A doctor from Richards Town was duped of over ₹22 lakh in a matrimonial scam after connecting with a man claiming to be a Berlin-based ophthalmologist on a matchmaking platform. Posing as a divorced doctor planning to open a hospital in Delhi, he gained her trust and later cited bank issues to seek money. She transferred funds over two weeks before realising the fraud. A case has been registered with the East Cyber Crime police.

The victim registered on the matrimonial portal on December 20, 2025. And she transferred money between January 9 and January 24, suggesting that the fraud took place over about 15 days, while the overall interaction lasted a little over a month before she realised she was being cheated.

The fraudsters also target men and gradually steer conversations towards cryptocurrency investments. Such was the case of a 31-year-old tech professional, who lost ₹24 lakh after falling prey to a cryptocurrency scam that began on a matrimonial website. The accused, posing as a prospective bride based in London with roots in Tamil Nadu, built trust through regular WhatsApp chats and phone calls before convincing him to invest in fraudulent crypto schemes.

Gaps in regulations

In India, matrimonial websites are recognised as intermediaries under the IT Act. Since 2016, the government has required platforms to verify users through identity documents such as Aadhaar, PAN, or passport, store IP addresses for a year, appoint grievance officers, and monitor fake or obscene profiles.

Despite these regulations, fraud continues. Chetan Anand points out that scammers exploit key blind spots, including partial implementation of ID checks, the vulnerability of users, and the misuse of stolen identities sourced from social media.

Many platforms treat verification as optional, merely awarding a badge instead of blocking unverified accounts. Fraudsters also operate using foreign VoIP or WhatsApp numbers, making it difficult for local police to take action.

Experts suggest that those who are looking for marriage alliances must verify profiles thoroughly, perform a background check, avoid transferring money to individuals they have not met in person, and report suspicious activity immediately through the national cybercrime portal or by dialing 1930, the cybercrime helpline.

Saplings planted by citizen volunteers, but nobody waters them

KAUSHIK JN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

president, Srigandhada Walkers Association.

Gowda said the volunteers have contributed money to procure hose pipes and other equipment. "The developmental works, which began a few years ago, are still incomplete," he said.

Expressing a similar opinion, Murali Pandit, secretary of Srigandhada Walkers Association, said the authorities must finish the work as early as possible for the benefit of hundreds of people who visit the lake for a walk in the mornings and evenings.

"There is no one to maintain the lake except a security guard. The authorities have to take measures to ensure rainwater flows into the lake. We found many snakes around the lake. There should be a sufficient number of lights around the lake for the walkers' safety," said Pandit.

Bangalore Mirror had written in 2023 about how Srigandadakaval Lake had been reduced to a bowl of water as an open air gym, walking paths, and amphitheater took over. We also reported on October 21, 2023, about how the lake had dried up, sparking outrage about the BBMP's mismanagement. It was said the lake was developed by the then Solid Waste Management of the BBMP.

We tried to reach out to the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) engineer, but he was not available for comment.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Manojakumar Sulebhavi S/o Ashok R/o #15, Dwarakamai, 1st Cross, Vasuki Layout, Aditya Nagar, Vidyaranyapura Post B'luru-560097 have changed my name to Manoj Kumar Sulebhavi.

I Shiva Kumar C s/o Chinnapan, 4-65, Bisanatham, Gudupalli, Chittoor, AP-517425, have changed my name to C Siva Kumar s/o Chinnappayan. Affidavit no: IN-KA95566293919641Y

I, Ravindra Bhatt Talakalakoppa Linga Bhatt, S/o Late Sri T. Linga Bhatt, aged 64 years, residing at No. 242, Upasana, 3rd Main, 6th Cross, Ideal Homes 1st Phase, Rajarajeshwarinagara, Bengaluru - 560098, Karnataka, hereby state that my name has appeared in different forms such as T. L. Ravindra Bhatt, T. L. Ravindra Bhatta, and Talakalakoppa Linga Bhatt Ravindra Bhatt, all referring to one and the same person. My correct and full name, as per my Passport, is: RAVINDRA BHATT TALAKALAKOPPA LINGA BHATT Henceforth, I shall be known as RAVINDRA BHATT TALAKALAKOPPA LINGA BHATT for all purposes, and my short form Ravindra Bhatt T L may also be used as an abbreviated version of the same name.

I, Vani Rajashekar R/o No 88 2nd Cross Udayanagara Chikkalasandra Bengaluru 560061 have changed my name to Vani Shivanna for all Purposes

I, Vijaya Naik S/o Kheerya Naik R/o #14, Shiva Nilaya, Vinayaka Enclave-2,Keregudd - adahalli, Chikkabanavara Post, B'luru-560090 have changed my name to Vijaya Naik K

I, BHANUPRATHAPU M P, S/o Ponnappa M C R/o No 2, Narayana Swamy Building, 4th Block, Kalappa Layout,Doddabommasandra,Vidyaranyapura Post, B'lore 560097 have changed my name to BHANU PRATHAP M P.

I Swati Vasant Joshi, W/o, Vasant Prakash Joshi, Residing At, No 601, Vitola Apts, Kalena Agrahara, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru 560076, have changed my name to Swati Ramakant Valve for all purposes

I, Zaina Malak R/O #36, 19th A Crs, Hebbal, B'lore-24, in my some document my father's name wrongly mentioned as Aqueek Ahamed Sadiq but correct and actual name is Aqueel Ahmed Sadiq for all purposes.

HARSHITH gowda S/O ravikumar A #307 6th cross near near Karnataka sangha jalahalli village Bangalore north Karnataka-560013 I have changed my name to HARSHITH GOWDA R for all purposes.

I Anthony Cruz S/O, Chinnadore R/o 207, B Block, Sai Krupa Heritage, Aswath Nagar, HBR Layout, Geddalahalli, Bangalore - 560043 have changed my name to Anthony Kruz for all purposes

I, Renukaprebhu Parameshwar Sansthanmath S/o Parameshwar Basayya Sansthanmath R/o No 21/22, Hdmc Qtr Bakale Galli, Ganesh Peth, Hubballi- Dharwad-580020 have changed my Name to Renukaprabhu Parameshwar Sansthanmath for all purposes

MADHU Mohana S/O Nagaraj r/o #No 178/2, 8th Cross old water tank Road Uttarahalli subramanya pura post Bangalore- 560061 I have changed my name to Madhu Mohan N For all purposes.

L, Seema Kumari Munoth W/o Dinesh Kumar Munoth R/o #633, New No-8,8th Main Road , B and Aso layout R P C layout B';ore-560104 have changed my name to Seema Munoth.

I, Asma Talath R/O #36, Hebbal, Bengaluru-560024, in my passport my father's name wrongly mentioned as Shaik Anwar but correct and actual name is Shaik Anwer for all purposes.

I, Kavita W/o Renukaprabhu Patameshwar Sansthanmath R/o No 21/22, Hdmc Qtr Bakale Galli, Ganesh Peth, Hubballi - Dharwad -580020 have changed my name to kavitha Renukaprabhu Sansthanmath for all purposes

I, Shabbeer Ahmed, S/o Basheer Ahmed, Residing at No. 111, Vitasandra Road, Lakshmi Nagar, Dodda Bagur, Post Bangalore South, Bangalore-560068, have changed my name from Shabbeer Ahmed Basheer Ahmed to Shabbeer Ahmed vide Affidavit dated 02-03-2026 sworn before Notary C.V. Earappa, Bengaluru.

LOST & FOUND

Document Lost

I, Aadesh, r/at No.1 Ramappa Building, 1st Floor, Raj Kumar Road, Ramamurthy Nagar, Doorvaninagar, Bangalore 560016 have lost my GPA Agreement vide Doc. ID: Khata no. 1855, Survey no. 187 near BBMP office, K R Puram. Police complaint given vide Lost Report No. 2087381/ 2026. If found please call 9901961042

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MAR: 8, 22, 25*, 29 APR: 1*, 5, 8*, 12, 15*, 19, 22*, 26
TRICHY RAMESHWARAM KANYAKUMARI 5/7*10** DAYS
MAR: 4**, 8, 8* 13, 14**, 15*, 18, 22*, 23, 24**, 28, 29* APR: 1, 3**, 6, 11, 13**, 16, 21, 26
ANDHRA PRADESH WITH STATUE OF EQUALITY 10/6* DAYS
MAR: 8*, 22, 22*, 29* APR: 2, 5*, 12, 12*, 19*, 22, 26*
SHIRDI NASIK/PANCHA JYOTHIRLINGA* 7* DAYS
MAR: 8, 22, 29, 30* APR: 5, 6*, 12, 13*, 19, 20*, 26, 27*
SOUTH INDIA 7/10* DAYS EX: MANGALORE MAR: 9, 16, 23 APR: 5, 12, 19
SOUTH INDIA 9*/11 DAYS EX: HUBBALLI MAR: 10* 19*, 23, 29* APR: 3, 7*

HEALTH TIP: Triphala can add lustre and maintain natural hair color, strengthening the hair and stimulating growth. Also, prevents breakage and split ends

Quinoa may improve triglyceride levels and improve blood sugar management. Which leads to lowering the risk of diabetes

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THE HIDDEN WORLD OF EARTH'S BEES

Scientists reveal how many bee species truly exist worldwide

It is a question that has sparked the curiosity of scholars and bee lovers for decades: how many species of bees are there in the world?

This might, at first, seem like a silly question. But it is a topic of genuine importance, especially if we want to protect our pollinators.

Now, in a new paper published in Nature Communications, we provide the first statistically derived estimate of bee species richness worldwide. But this work is not just about bees. It provides the tools needed for scientists to estimate the number of all species on Earth.

Why do bees matter?

Bees are the most important animal pollinators, so it is crucial to know how many species there are in the world.

Globally, and corrected for inflation, crop pollination is worth roughly $745 billion per year. Pollination is also crucial for our diet and wellbeing, with 75% of food crop diversity and 35% of total food production benefiting from animal pollination.

However, that is far from the complete story.

Bees are what is known as a "keystone" group. Just like the keystone in a stone arch, removing that group would result in cascading ecological impacts, and potentially, as implied by the analogy, collapse.

Recent estimates suggest that 90% of flowering plants (roughly 307,000 species) are pollinated by animals. Plants produce oxygen and sequester carbon, moderate temperatures, prevent erosion, protect coastlines, form the foundation of food webs, and much more.

Bees are also of immense cultural value. Humans have been working with honey bee products for at least 9,000 years, and quite possibly longer with stingless bees.

Our current estimates

The European honey bee and bumblebee species are the best-known bees in the world. But there are many more.

In his 2007 book, Bees of the World, US entomologist Charles Michener estimated there were more than 18,000 known bee species, and over 20,000 in total.

We have already surpassed this number, with roughly 21,000 named bee species globally.

Those are global estimates. But what about more specific ones?

Australia is a relatively well-understood region, with at least four estimates as high as 2,000 species.

However, these are all guesses without statistical backing.

How do we estimate undiscovered species?

Bee datasets around the world are growing, thanks to both professional and citizen scientists.

For our new study, we used more than 8.3 million bee records (documenting where they have been found), a country-level checklist of bee species, and a taxonomic list of roughly 21,000 species names.

We then used statistical modelling to estimate the "lower bound" of the possible number of species globally, by continent and by country.

More simply, we examine how well species have been sampled to estimate the minimum number of new species still to be discovered.

Imagine you sample two forests for bees. In the first, you find eight species, all in similarly high abundance. In the second, you also find eight species, but while some are abundant, others are recorded only a handful of times.

You might expect that you have discovered most of the species in the first forest because you are repeatedly encountering the same ones. In the second forest, you are finding many rarely occurring species, which suggests that more diversity may be discovered if sampling continues.

Now expand this process to the level of countries, continents and the globe.

So, how many bee species are there?

Globally, we estimate there are at least 24,705 to 26,164 bee species in the world (an 18–25% increase on previous estimates).

At current rates of description (roughly 117 species per year), it would take between 32 and 45 years to describe all of the world's bee species. However, it may take much longer, as our estimate is conservative and we are likely to discover new species more slowly as fewer remain to be found.

Importantly, most new bee species are expected to be found in Asia and Africa.

This is perhaps not surprising, as bee research in Asia faces many challenges and data from Africa are very limited, with some countries having no usable bee data.

Some species diversity is most easily detected using genetic techniques. This can easily go unnoticed and means we should not be surprised if our estimates are surpassed in the future.
Even in wealthy nations such as Australia, we found that not using genetic techniques may lead to lower estimates of species richness.

Highly valuable data

We have shown that it is possible to estimate the total number of bee species, and indeed any species – at a country level using existing data.

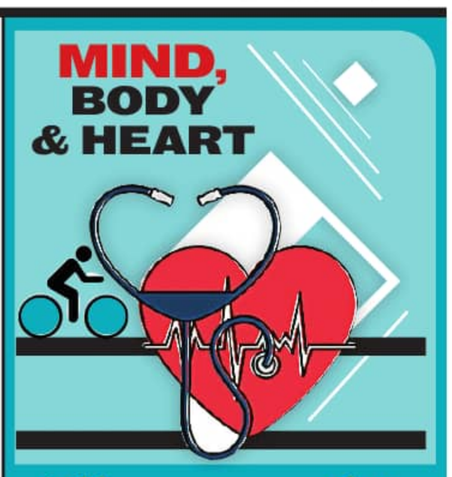
These data are highly valuable in several respects.

A detailed cost–benefit analysis of investment in discovering and documenting new species in Australia found that every $1 invested in discovering all remaining Australian species could bring up to $35 in economic benefits to the nation.

These data can also be used to prioritise discovery and taxonomic efforts, as well as conservation strategies to protect our most important species.

Through the application of these methods, we can at last begin to answer the question: how many species are there in the world?

(By James B Dorey and Nikolas Johnston, University of Wollongong, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Morning science

Who said science was confined to white lab coats and laboratory benches? From your first sip of coffee to the moment sunlight hits your face, your morning routine is packed with fascinating biological and chemical processes.

The morning caffeine
Caffeine does not actually give you energy. As you stay awake, adenosine builds up in your brain, making you feel tired. Caffeine simply blocks those adenosine receptors, preventing the "sleepy" signal from reaching you. You are not gaining energy, you are delaying fatigue.

The cold shower boost
A blast of cold water triggers a mild "fight or flight" response. Your heart rate rises, breathing deepens and norepinephrine sharpens focus. This natural jolt can elevate mood, improve concentration and stimulate metabolism.

The 'Pruney' finger mystery
Wrinkled fingers are not caused by water absorption alone. They result from vasoconstriction, the narrowing of blood vessels beneath the skin creating better grip on wet surfaces. It is an evolutionary advantage at work.

Making the bed reset
A tidy bed reduces visual clutter. Completing this small task signals order to your brain, potentially lowering stress levels and creating a sense of calm at the start of the day.

The sunlight effect
Morning light activates the suprachiasmatic nucleus, your body's internal clock. It suppresses melatonin and boosts cortisol at the right time, helping you feel alert and balanced.

The doomscroll drain
Early phone use spikes cortisol and adrenaline while feeding a short-lived dopamine loop. The result? Mental fatigue before the day has properly begun. Your morning is not mundane, it is science in motion.

—Femina

MIRRORLIGHTS

IIT study spots early liver toxicity risk in common antibiotics

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay) have found that analysing where antibiotics accumulate within the outer layers of liver cells may help predict drug-induced toxicity at an early stage, enabling faster detection of harmful side effects.

While antibiotics are among modern medicine's greatest achievements, some can raise liver enzyme levels, cause inflammation and, in rare cases, lead to severe liver failure. Drug-induced liver injury remains a major reason medicines are withdrawn or restricted after approval.

The study, led by Professor Ashutosh Kumar from IIT Bombay along with Professor Vetriselvan Subramaniyan of Sunway University, Malaysia, suggests toxicity may depend not on how strongly a drug acts, but on how and where it interacts with the cell membrane.

Traditionally, researchers believed damage occurred mainly when drugs ruptured cell membranes. However, the team found that early toxic effects often begin at the membrane level, the first point of contact between drugs and liver cells.

By tracking how medicines interact with membranes at a molecular level, scientists may be able to predict safety risks before clinical trials. Because the tests are relatively fast and scalable, they could be incorporated into standard safety checks, helping avoid costly failures and accelerating the development of safer medicines. —PTI

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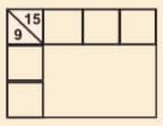
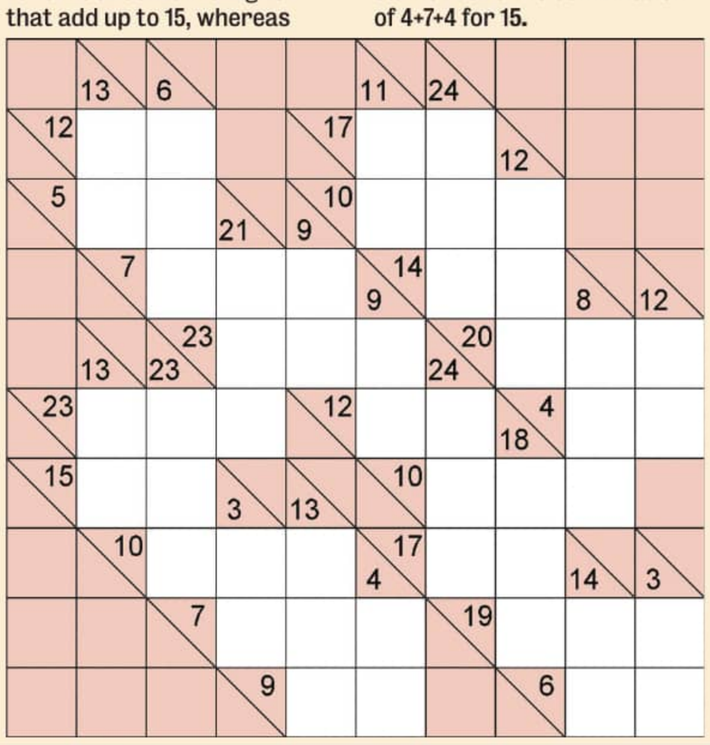
Kakuro

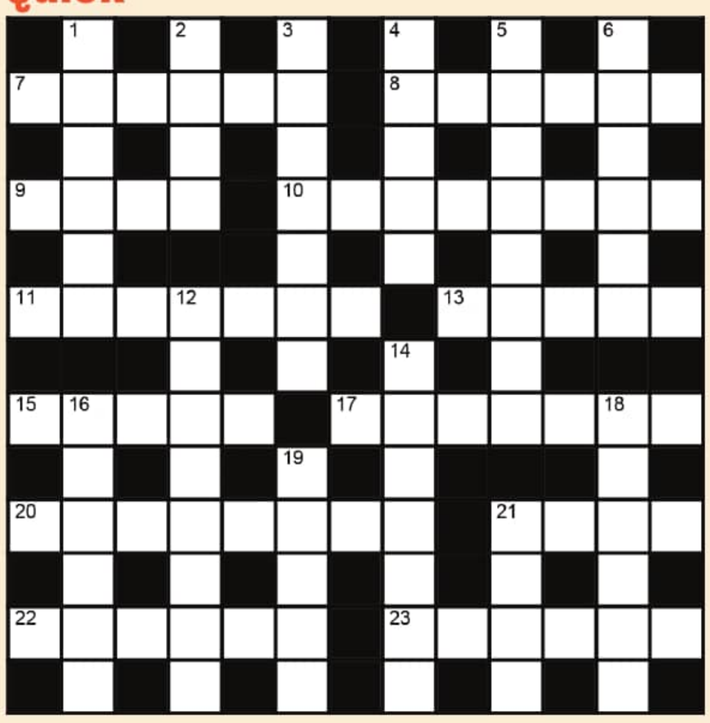
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Slow runner? (6)
8 In a foreign country? (6)
9 Large luxurious car (4)
10 Ms Lodge of Archie comics (8)
11 Wart (7)
13 Nimble (5)
15 Football manager Unai ___ (5)
17 Capital of Kenya (7)
20 Disagreement (8)
21 Physical training facilities (4)
22 Of most superior quality, in a way? (6)
23 Not factual or true; imaginary (6)

DOWN

1 Gentle and tame; not wild (6)
2 Exchange fee (4)
3 Freedom from public intrusion (7)
4 Inner circle (5)
5 Capital of Jammu and Kashmir (8)
6 The unit of gas pressure (6)
12 Sends down a different path (8)
14 Bangalore's second largest lake (7)
16 Allowance or leeway (6)
18 Mumbai's old name? (6)
19 Eliminating races (5)
21 Microbe (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: U EQUALS T

UGX CYKFU VWKU WOYBU NXZXOKWUDIL WIYUGXK ODKUGEWJ DF UGX FGYNM UGWU JYB'KX YIZJ WF CXZZ WF JYB WKX.

Linemaro

You are like a mirror because I can't stop looking at you

Mindchow

Free will is not the liberty to do whatever one likes, but the power of doing whatever one sees ought to be done, even in the very face of otherwise overwhelming impulse. There lies freedom, indeed

Joke of the day

I now know I'm psychic, because every time I go see a fortune teller, I know everything he says will be absolute bullshit ahead of time

Loop

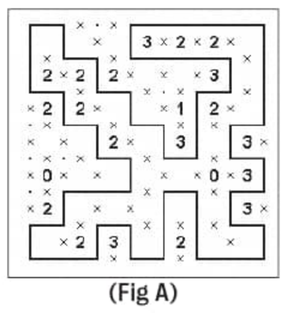
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

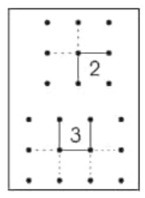
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

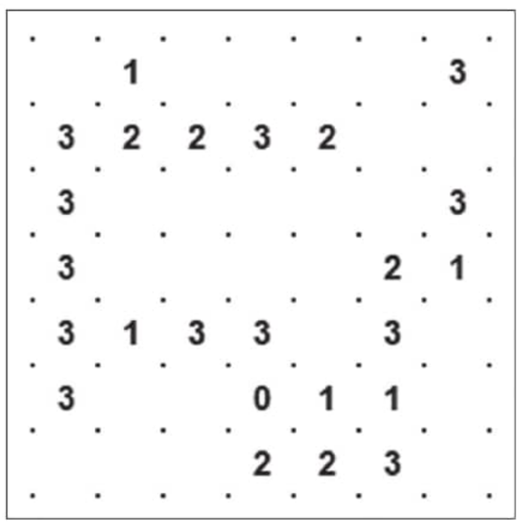
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



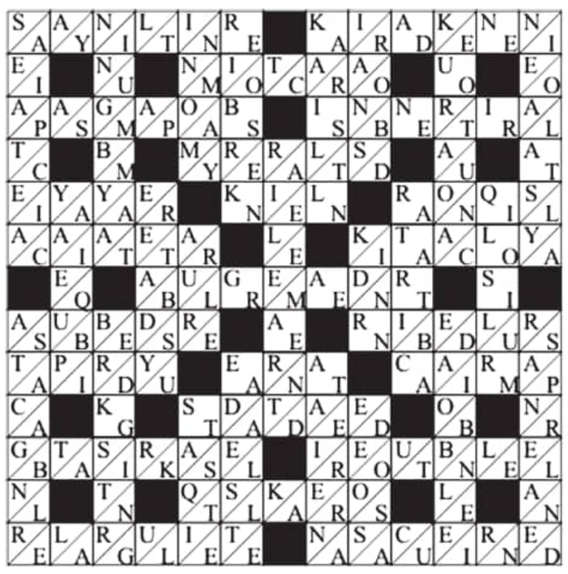
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2 G	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

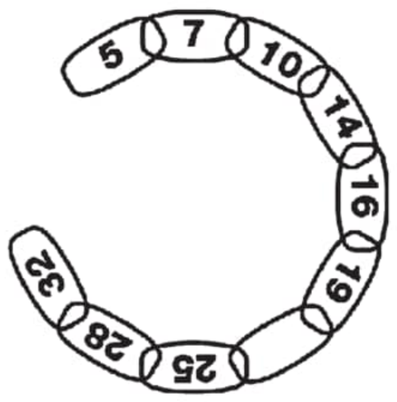
1 Eg set; 6 Relax; 7 Lu Tee; 8 Cares; 9 Baste

DOWN

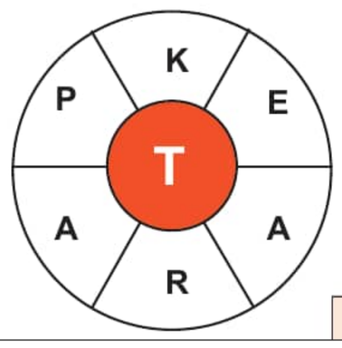
1 Lee CT; 2 Algae; 3 Rubex; 4 Tease; 5 Rests

Mensapuzzle

Which number goes in the blank link and completes the chain?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

16 Average; 18 Good; 20 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

3	8						7	2
	5		1		8		4	
			2		7			
		2	9	4	1	6		
		6				1		
		5	8	7	6	3		
			6		3			
	6		5		4		9	
9	1						6	5

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 17

7 8 9 9

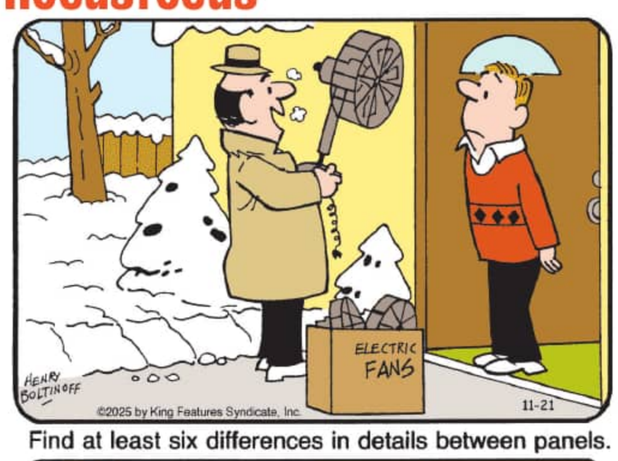
Medium = 7

5 5 7 9

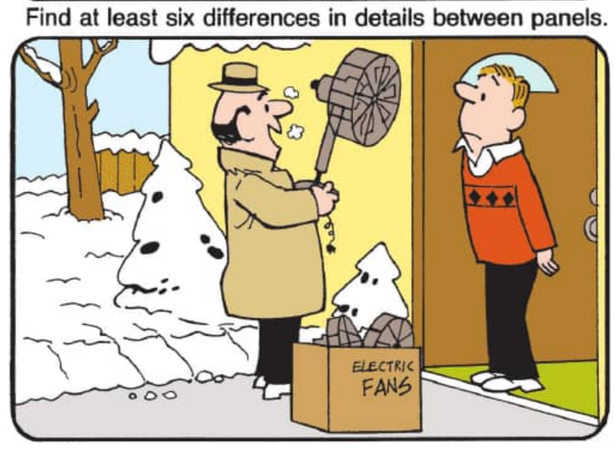
Hard = 26

1 8 9 9

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



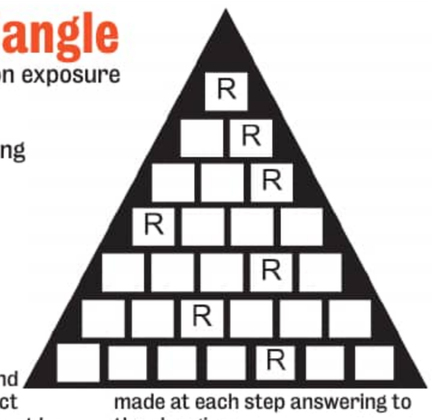
Differences: 1. Design on sweater is higher. 2. Salesman has less hair. 3. Man is taller. 4. Tree is different. 5. Cord is shorter. 6. Box is wider.

Riddler

Here is a group of common three-letter words. Can you take these and turn them into half as many 6 letter words? Each three-letter word is used only once. bar, bit, box, boy, car, day, den, dim, fly, hid, low, now, nut, pan, pea, sun, ten, try, win, wit

Alpha triangle

1 A unit of radiation exposure
2 Either
3 Lone peak
4 Method of learning
5 Shopping place
6 Put into order
7 Demolish

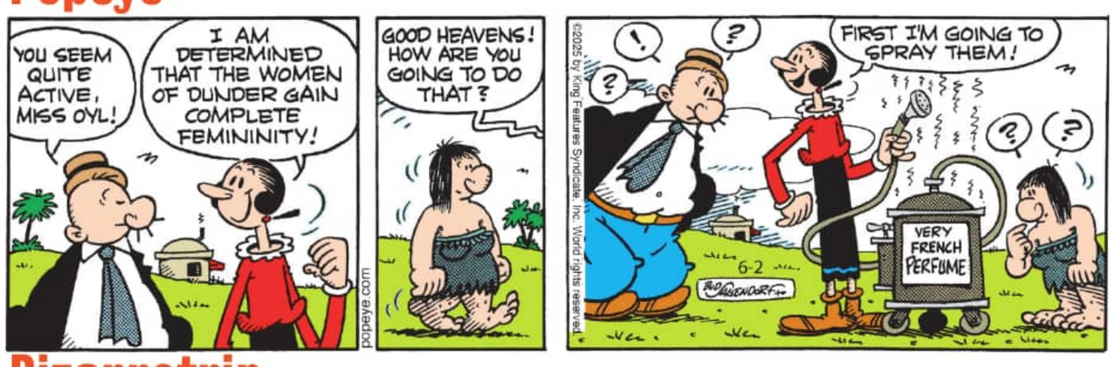


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


YOU SEEM QUITE ACTIVE, MISS OYL!
I AM DETERMINED THAT THE WOMEN OF DUNDER GAIN COMPLETE FEMININITY!
GOOD HEAVENS! HOW ARE YOU GOING TO DO THAT?
FIRST I'M GOING TO SPRAY THEM!
VERY FRENCH PERFUME
6-2
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popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

This one is for valor in the face of embarrassing leaks.
Wayno & Piraro 11·21·25
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Dist. by King Features BIZARRO.COM

Diamond Lil

MY COUSIN ARTHUR BASED HIS LIFE ON ONE SIMPLE RULE
WHAT WAS IT?
"A WASPS' NEST IS NOT A PIÑATA"
SOMETIMES HE'D JUST SCREAM IT AT THE DINNER TABLE
WE LIVE AND LEARN
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BATIUK & DAVIS

Hart of the city

YOU CAN COME BY AND VISIT THE CATS ANYTIME.
BUT MAKE IT SOON. I'M GOING TO COLLEGE NEXT YEAR.
WHO'LL TAKE CARE OF THE CATS?
MAYBE SOMEONE ELSE WILL TAKE THE MANTLE OF THE CAT WHISPERER...
OR MAYBE I'VE ALREADY TALKED TO MY LOCAL CAT SHELTER ABOUT A REPLACEMENT, WHO CAN SAY?
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
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Crankshaft

SHOULD WE GET SOME CRANBERRY SAUCE?
NO... LILLIAN SAID SHE WAS MAKING SOME.
THERE'S A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MAKING SOME AND BRINGING SOME!
GOOD POINT... OR TEN...
11-21
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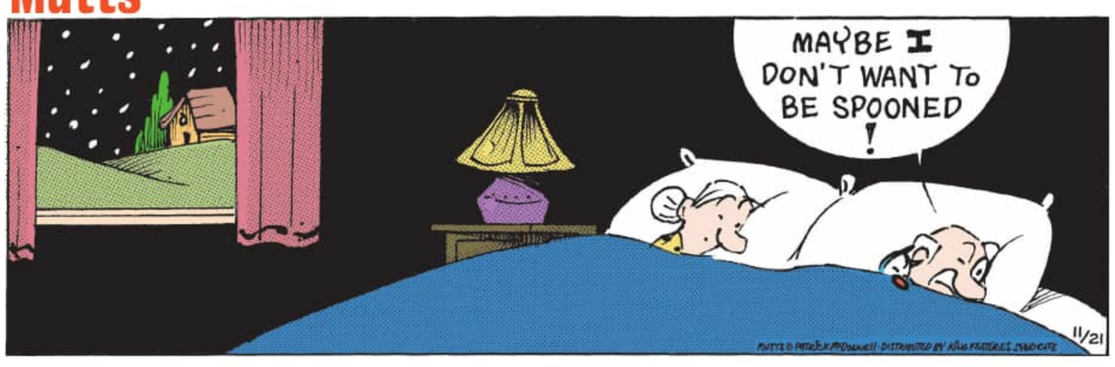
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts



WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Creativity shapes your path forward. Romance feels playful and expressive, re-igniting joy. Career conversations favour your ideas, especially when you speak confidently. Finances benefit from inspired yet practical decisions. Travel sparks imagination and connection. At home, laughter and shared moments uplift your mood, reminding you that success feels sweeter when joy leads the way.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

Excitement over a new idea could push you to rush and blunder. Slow down today, plan carefully, and ensure you see two or three steps ahead before acting decisively now.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

Someone jealous of your popularity may set a trap today. Stay alert, avoid risky moves, and remember you have nothing to prove to anyone, including yourself at all ever today.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

If a partner implies you are slacking, they want a reaction. Don't overcompensate; trust your progress, stay steady, and keep following the successful path you're already on with confidence intact.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

Something you've nurtured for ages improves today. Focus on the bigger picture, persist calmly, and you'll reach your goal before week's end, with rewards assured by the universe itself soon.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Ignore claims you lack discipline. Move at your own pace, follow what feels right, and remember life isn't a race demanding constant leadership every minute of every single day here.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Stand up for yourself today or no one will. Challenge false claims immediately, state the truth clearly, and defend your reputation with confidence during the next twenty four hours firmly.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Remember words can wound as well as heal. Push too hard today and you may bruise egos, empowering rivals to damage your reputation through gossip, manipulation, and strategic misrepresentation later.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

Someone expected to align with you chooses differently today. Accept it, stay detached, and focus fully on your own path forward without questioning motives, outcomes, or their personal reasons now.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Remain calm and go with the flow. Refusing to panic lets chaos pass you by, while optimism shields you from relentless negativity surrounding daily events, opinions, noise, and confusion everywhere.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

If you convincingly dramatize your current work as vital, others may believe it. Play the role well enough and even you'll be persuaded, earning admiration, momentum, confidence, applause, and success.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

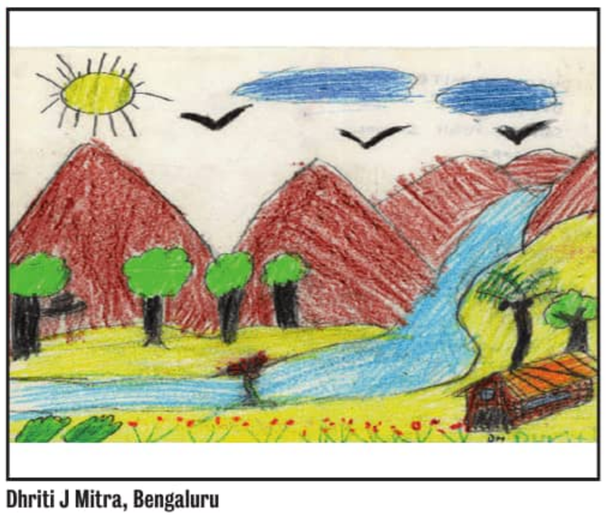
Don't stress if authority figures seem un-supportive now. Their indifference reveals your overreliance and motivates stronger independence and self-trust, prompting you to act decisively and build resilience alone starting now.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

Planetary movement won't erase logic. Stay sensible, avoid reckless spending, and ensure you know how money will be replaced before committing funds impulsively without secure future plans ahead.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE



Dhriti J Mitra, Bengaluru

Swetha V, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

2^1/3 + 2^1/4 + 2^5/12 =
2^ (1/3 + 1/4 + 5/12) =
2^(4/12 + 3/12 + 5/12) =
2^ (12 / 12) =
2 ^ 1 = 2

QUOTE UNCODE

The worst part about celebrating another birthday is the shock that you're only as well as you are.

RIDDLER

Barfly, Bitten, Boxcar, Lowboy, Sunday, Hidden, Dimwit, Winnow, Peanut & Pantry

FAST FIVE

E	G	E	S	T
L	A	X	E	R
E	L	U	T	E
C	E	R	A	S
T	A	B	E	S

STRIKE OUT

S	A	N	T	I	R	K	R	A	K	E	N	D		
E	U	M	I	C	R	O		O	E					
P	A	M	P	A	S	I	B	E	R	I	A			
T	B	M	E	A	L	S	U		T					
I	Y	A	R	N	I	L	A	N	I	L				
C	A	T	E	R	L	I	T	A	L	Y				
S	U	E	D	E	E	N	I	D	U	S				
T	I	D	Y	A	N	T	C	A	M	P				
A	G	S	A	T	E	D	B	B	R					
B	A	I	K	A	L	R	O	U	B	L	E			
L	N	T	S	A	R	S	L	A						
E	A	G	L	E	T	A	S	C	E	N	D			

QUICK

		N		S		S		R		M		Y		
	F	I	N	E	S	T		U	N	R	E	A	L	
	G		T		A		H		E		B			
A	R	G	U	M	E	N	T		G	Y	M	S		
	O				R						O			
E	M	E	R	Y		N	A	I	R	O	B	I		
	A		O		H		O							
V	E	R	R	U	C	A		A	G	I	L	E		
		E		Y		V		A						
L	I	M	O		V	E	R	O	N	I	C	A		
J	O	G	G	E	R		A	B	R	O	A	D		
C		I		I		D		I		S				
D	A		P		C		S		P					

MENSA PUZZLE

23. Working clockwise, numbers increase by 2, 3 and 4 in a repeating sequence.

BULL'S EYE

apart, karate, kept, part, PARTAKE, pate, peat, pert, prate, rapt, rate, take, trek, taken, tape, taper, tarp, teak, tear, trap,

SUDOKU

9	1	3	7	8	2	4	6	5
7	6	8	5	1	4	2	9	3
5	2	4	6	9	3	7	1	8
1	9	5	8	7	6	3	2	4
4	7	6	9	3	2	5	8	1
8	3	2	9	4	1	6	5	7
6	4	9	2	5	7	8	3	1
2	5	7	1	3	8	9	4	6
3	8	1	4	6	9	5	7	2

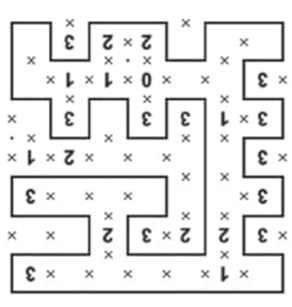
ALPHA TRIANGLE

R, Or, Tor, Rote, Store, Sorted, Destroy.

GO FIGURE

Easy
9 - 8 + 7 + 9 = 17
Medium
5 + 9 / 7 + 5 = 7
Hard
9 + 9 x 1 + 8 = 26

LOOP



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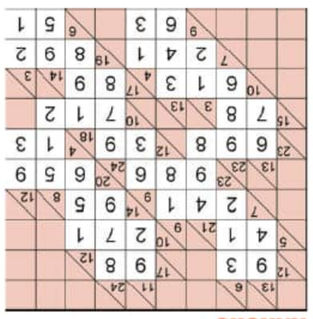

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 # 'Tumbbad 2' update
Nawazuddin Siddiqui joins Sohum Shah's sequel, promises to play 'character with many layers'

Negativity in the limelight

Aditi Rao Hydari on navigating misinformation and toxicity as an actor

Aditi Rao Hydari, now nearly two decades into her acting career, feels the entertainment world has become tougher to navigate due to the rise of "paid negativity" and agenda-driven narratives. The actress, who began her journey in 2006 with the Malayalam film 'Prajapathi', acknowledges that smear campaigns against public figures are not new.

On the rise of online toxicity

Reflecting on the growing influence of digital media, Aditi highlights how online chatter often turns toxic. "Celebrity smear campaigns aren't new," she tells Hindustan Times, adding, "But I see it around me all the time. Occasionally, I come across random rubbish about myself. I ignore it because I know there's some agenda behind it." The actor points out that the flood of online content has made it increasingly difficult to distinguish verified information from speculation. "There's so much misinformation on platforms that are supposed to be factual," says Aditi, adding, "Add paid negativity and hidden agendas, and it becomes toxic. Sometimes, too much information is a burden. The mystery surrounding actors has faded."

Staying calm amid criticism

Although Aditi admits that dealing with criticism isn't always easy, she refuses to let it disturb her peace of mind. She credits her mother's wisdom for helping her stay grounded. "My mother always said when someone is mean, the issue lies within them. That thought keeps me centred."

Success, struggle and finding balance

Having built a diverse career that spans several film industries and formats, Aditi continues to draw attention with her recent performances in 'Gandhi Talks' and the 2024 web series 'Heeramandi'. Both projects earned her critical recognition, yet she remains realistic about the nature of success in cinema. Hydari notes that artistic praise or box office hits don't necessarily guarantee steady opportunities. "Talent exists beyond success and failure. But if you're an outsider, success influences opportunities," she says.

—ETimes

Depp to return as Sparrow?

Everyone's favourite pirate, Johnny Depp may soon be setting sail into the high seas once again with 'Pirates of the Caribbean 6'. News of the actor's return to the hit franchise began doing the rounds after producer Jerry Bruckheimer's statement at the Producers Guild Awards went viral over the weekend.

He dismissed rumours that the franchise will be moving forward without Depp's character. Bruckheimer put those rumours to rest in a chat with The Direct. The Hollywood veteran was asked about claims that new Pirates films were moving forward without Depp, he replied, "First of all, that's not true." When asked whether the franchise might pass the torch to a new lead, he added, "If it's up to me, he (Johnny Depp) will be in it." In August 2025, Bruckheimer told Entertainment Weekly that he had spoken with Depp about reprising the role, adding that he believes the actor "would do it", although the decision would depend on the script.

—ETimes

'Toxic' runtime revealed

The box office fight between 'Dhurandhar: The Revenge' and 'Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups' will be one of 2026's biggest movie battles. Both films release on March 19, and excitement is already very high. New reports suggest 'Toxic' will also have a long runtime. It is expected to run more than 3 hours. This is close to Dhurandhar 2's length of about 3 hours and 40 minutes. Both are big movies with significant scale and screen time.

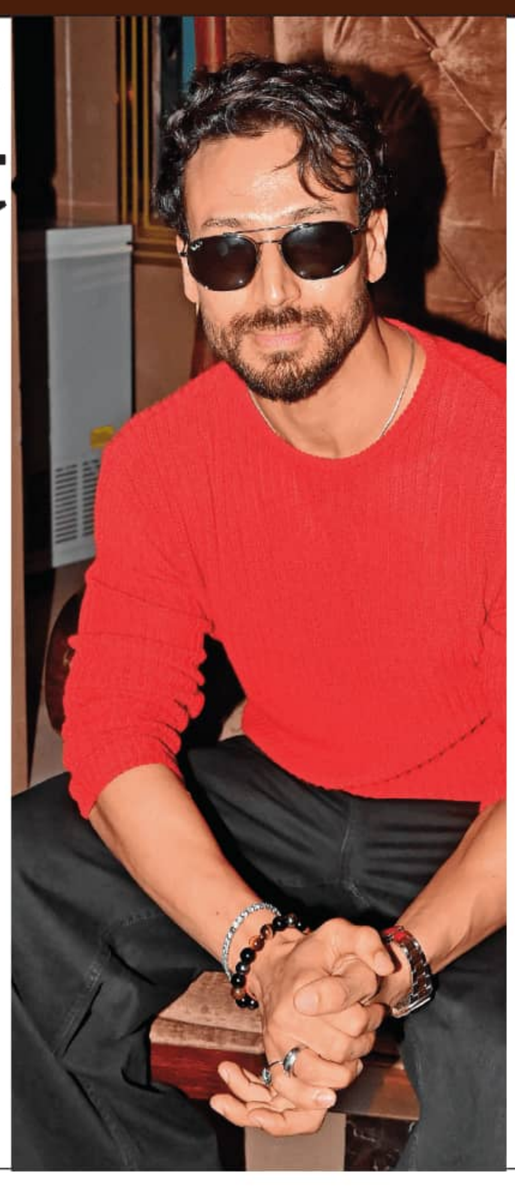
According to Bollywood Hungama, Toxic's final length is yet to be locked, but it comes to around 200 minutes, or 3 hours and 20 minutes. The makers feel the film has enough entertainment and mass-appealing moments so the audience won't get bored or restless. Previously, a long film would often lead to a negative perception. But it all changed with 'Animal' (2023). It was 3 hours and 21 minutes long and ran very successfully. Not to forget, the duration of Dhurandhar's (2026) first part was 3 hours and 34 minutes. All these films were huge hits and it remains to be seen if 'Toxic' also follows suit. Meanwhile, the makers have officially announced that Toxic's trailer will drop on March 8 in Bengaluru.

—ETimes

Tiger's new project

Bollywood star Tiger Shroff is set to headline a massive spiritual action thriller titled 'Vajra'. The film is directed by Ram Madhvani, known for his acclaimed work on the film 'Neerja'. A Money Control report suggested that the film will go on floors in 2026 and a major part of the shoot will take place in Japan. The project was confirmed by Bollywood Hungama, which mentioned that the film is named 'Vajra'. The makers, as well as Tiger, felt that the title is apt for the storyline and also because it's connected with Indian culture. Tiger reportedly signed the project in November 2025. Fans of Tiger Shroff can expect a striking reinvention as the reports further added that in 'Vajra', Tiger Shroff will be seen in a never-seen-before avatar.

—ETimes



SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Maiden venture

Kiccha Sudeep unveiled the title of the upcoming movie Celebrity at a special function held in Chikkanayakanahalli near Tumakuru, extending his best wishes to the cast and crew.

The film is being supported by JD(S) leader Sa Ra Mahesh and Sushma Ashwin under the banner of Gowri Arts Productions. With Celebrity, Gowri Arts Productions marks its debut in Sandalwood.

"I have had a passion for movies since my childhood. I am making my debut in Sandalwood. I appeal to moviegoers to support and bless me," said Ashwin, who plays the lead in the film.

Kiran Vishwanath takes the director's chair for Celebrity, with Priyanka Achar cast opposite Ashwin in the lead. The film's music is composed by Gummineni Vijay, while renowned action choreographer Ravi Varma brings his expertise to the project.

Thrilling response

The team behind the Kannada movie Trikaaram was overjoyed when the film's first song struck a chord with music lovers. Building on that success, they recently unveiled the second song at MMB Legacy. The event was graced by politician Ravindra, actor Shivaraj KR Pete, and director Kadhar Kumar.

The song – Seeda Nintharoo Loka Yaake Ultaa Kaanthide – was released through Pin2Pin Music. The lyrics were written by Keshu-Chethan, while playback singer Rajesh Krishnan rendered it. Vivek Chakravarthy scored music for the song.

The Kannada movie Trikaaram is backed by theatre artiste G Ganesh Murthy under the Sadguru Cini Productions banner. In addition to supporting the project, Murthy also takes on the role of the film's villain.

Dilip Kumar GR from Ajjampura, who has worked as an associate director for a few Kannada movies, makes his debut as an independent director with the film.